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16 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Director, OSA-DD/R

SUBJECT : Interim Status Report on DC Generator

1. In a telephone conversation last night with [ ] he reported on the results of current efforts at Lockheed to solve our present difficulties with the Lear Siegler 400 AMP generator.

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Brushes: From technical discussions with [ ] from National Carbon, a variation in the hardness of carbon brushes is to be expected. However, there is no such thing as "soft" carbon for generator brushes in our equipment. The breakdown of the brushes is caused from some other source. [ ] are to discuss this point further with Lear Siegler and are also to look again into solvents and other compounds used at overhaul in finishing or cleaning the commutator. During overhaul when new brushes are fitted to the commutator, the generator is run on the bench for 3 to 4 hours to "set-up" the brushes. This procedure allows for the brushes to deposit a slight film on the commutator, much like the oil film set up on the cylinder walls of your car's engine, and thereby reduces friction and provides for a more efficient operation.

Bearings: [ ] has advised Lear Siegler that only Fafnir bearings are to be used in generators supplied to Lockheed. MRC and New Departure bearings will not be used in the U-2 generators.

Other: Lear Siegler has flown one of our generators back to their Cleveland division for environmental tests using Fafnir bearings. Results of this test should be available early part of next week.

Nothing new to report on grease and seals, although these items are receiving careful attention in the many tests now being run at Lockheed, Bendix, and Lear Siegler.

2. As a side note, I wish to confirm what I reported to you on 15 March about the delivery of Article 356 from IRAN/J-75 conversion and with the aerial refueling system. The production schedule on 356 is current, and it is anticipated then, that Article 356 will join the Edwards Detachment 8 April 1963.

SIGNED

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MD/OSA-DD/[ ]:sd

Chief, Material Division  
OSA-DD/R

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